

REMARKS

ON THE

QUAKERS written Paper, Presented by them to Members of Parliament; Humbly represented to their Christian Consideration.

Yesterday I received from a Member of the Honourable House of Commons, a written Paper, which the *Quakers* have privately delivered to the Members thereof; in which are these words; *Viz.*

First, *The Quakers are wholly dissatisfied with the Words [or pretended Marriages] which are added in the Exception, &c.*

Remark. As what the Lords have granted them, by their Amendment, is more than the Protestant Dissenters ask; **SD** it is Humbly Prayed, That this Honourable House will agree with the Lord's Amendment, and not set them on the Level with the Church Establish'd; for nothing less will satisfy them. Is it not enough, if not more than enough, their Principles duly considered, That they are thus exempted from the 100*l.* Fine, and thereby distinguished with Marks of Favour above all Protestant Dissenters? Again,

Secondly, *Now (say they) to render the Quakers Marriages pretended Marriages, may be construed to their great disadvantage in many Respects, and be made a Reproach against them, &c.*

Remark. Then let them conform to the Laws in that Case Made and Provided, as other Dissenters do; by Publishing their Banns in our Churches, or taking Licences out of the Bishops Courts, as they have done for their Meeting-Houses; Registering their Children; Burying in Woollen only: These at first were pretended to be with them, Cases of Conscience; but the several Pænaltries soon removed their Scruples, as I have Noted; so that it is not Conscience, but Humour, with a design to be uppermost, thus to pick and chuse what Laws to obey, and what Laws to reject. Moreover, As to the words *pretended Marriages being made a Reproach to them*: Have they not reproached all Ranks, Degrees, and Orders of Men? Have they not called all Kings, and consequently Queens, Apostates, Spiritual Egyptians, &c. Have they not called our Parliaments, The Beast that carries the Whore, the false Church? Affirming, as Prophets, That a Parliament chosen by most Voices, were not like to Act for God, or the good of the People. Have they not called our Bishops and Ministers, Monsters, Witches, Devils, Sodomites, Antichrists, Baal's Priests; yea, comparing them to the very **Insects** and **Reptiles** of the Earth? Have they not reproached the Fathers of the Council of Nice, calling them a company of Apostates, Ignorant Rabbits, and followers of the Beast? That the Doctrine of the ever Blessed Trinity is a damnable Doctrine; That our Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, is the Cup of Devils, and Table of Devils: That the Holy Scriptures are Death, Dust, Serpent's-meat, Beastly Ware, Humane, and that what we learn from thence

is Human? All which, with abundance more of the like Terms of Contempt and Reproach, I stand ready to prove out of their Books to their Faces. And that without any Retractation, or signs of Repentance: But on the contrary, tell us in their late Prints, That their Principles are the same in every respect that they were Fifty Years ago, without any Change, or Variation. Again,

Thirdly, *The Words (say they) or pretended Marriages in the said Exception, are not coherent with the rest of the Clause, &c.*

Remark. That the Amendment, made by the House of Lords, is not Coherent, which is but a softer word for Nonsense, is, with submission to better Judgments, great Presumption. But again,

Lastly, Should they be humour'd by both Houses, it would but make them Proud and Insolent, Triumphant over the Government, as they did in the Case of their Solemn Affirmation; saying, *Let none therefore count or call this a SUBJECTING our Testimony to the will of Man, seeing God hath SUBJECTED Man's will to our desire, &c.* as in my former Papers I have Noted. I remember that one of their Teachers, Edward Deeks by Name, of Bury St. Edmunds, once told me to my Face, saying, *Well thou mayst write what thou wilt, we matter it not, for we have more Interest in the House of Commons than you have.* Thus do they Boast and Triumph both over High and Low. The Premises Considered, It is Humbly hoped, That this Honourable House will agree with the Lords in their Amendment. All which is Humbly submitted to your Honours Christian Consideration, by

Your most Humble Servant,

Fra. Bugg.

POSTSCRIPT.

IN Case this Honourable House, should in their great Wisdom think fit, for the Glory of God, and good of his Church, to agree with the Lords in their Amendment, It is not to be doubted, but a great many of the *Quakers*, to avoid the Penalty, would submit to take a Licence; several having already been Married by our Ministers; many of Discretion among them are sensible it is no part of that Religious Worship which they perform to God; that being Preserved to Protestant Dissenters by the Act of Toleration, but only an Obedience which St. Paul has strictly enjoyn'd to be paid to Authority.

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